

SPPH DL 520 - CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES Term 2, 2017

FACE-TO-FACE SESSIONS:

January 21

March 4

April 1

LOCATION:

School of Population and Public Health Building (see Schedule for rooms for face-to-face sessions)

INSTRUCTORS:

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OFFICE:

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Define epidemiology and public health surveillance;
2. Discuss specific methods used to investigate outbreaks, control disease, and prevent selected communicable diseases;
3. Discuss the relative importance of selected non-infectious diseases in the overall health of the nation and the global community;

4. learn and develop approaches to investigating outbreaks and managing problems in infectious diseases control;
 5. Demonstrate ability to assess diseases/conditions from a population perspective;
 6. Demonstrate ability to recommend appropriate strategies for effective prevention and control of infectious selected non-infectious diseases;
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7. Describe the contextual factors to be considered in disease prevention and control programs;
 8. Describe the relationship between disease characteristics and possible interventions;
 9. Develop and apply logic models in population –based public health programs; and
 10. Identify steps in disease investigations.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

SPPH DL 520 is a mixed mode, or *blended*, course. This means that you will be working with your instructor and fellow students both online and face-to-face in the classroom. It is necessary for you to participate fully in all parts of this course to successfully complete the course. Case studies, guest lectures and online material, combined with pre-assigned readings, will outline key issues and concepts of epidemiology and public health surveillance. Small group sessions, face- to-face and online discussions, and assignments will provide an opportunity for application of these concepts.

The face-to-face component of the course takes place over three days and includes lectures and small group break-out sessions.

Ample time will be provided throughout for discussion and questions. As the majority of students are from the health sector, or will be a part of the health sector in the future, participants will be encouraged to speak about their own experiences and challenges. The online component will include course materials, class discussion, questions, assignment, recordings of guest lectures and additional reading to supplement classroom material.

Please see the SPPH Course Schedule for the dates of the face-to-face sessions.

PREREQUISITES:

- SPPH 502 or a similar course in introductory epidemiology
- SPPH 400 or a similar course in introductory statistics

TEXTBOOK:

AFMC Primer on Population Health: A virtual textbook on Public Health concepts for clinicians. (chapter 11 – Infectious Disease Control)

<http://phprimer.afmc.ca/Part3-PracticeImprovingHealth/Chapter11InfectiousDiseaseControl>

Communicable Disease Control Manual (chapter 1 – 6)

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual>

COURSE EVALUATION:

- Class Participation and Group Discussions 20 %
- Assignments 10 %
- In-class Midterm 30%

- Final project 40%

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated through a combination of class participation, group exercises and a written assignment and will be graded according to the following criteria. Grading (from *the UBC Department of Educational Studies, Graduate Course Grading Policy*):

A+ is from 90% to 100%: It is reserved for exceptional work that greatly exceeds course expectations. In addition, achievement must satisfy all the conditions below. A is from 85% to 89%: A mark of this order suggests a very high level of performance on all criteria used for evaluation. Contributions deserving an A are distinguished in virtually every aspect. They show that the individual significantly shows initiative, creativity, insight, and probing analysis where appropriate. Further, the achievement must show careful attention to course requirements as established by the instructor. A- is from 80% to 84%: It is awarded for generally high quality of performance, no problems of any significance, and fulfillment of all course requirements.

B Level (68% to 79%). This category of achievement is typified by adequate but unexceptional performance when the criteria of assessment are considered. It is distinguished from A level work by problems such as: One of more significant errors in understanding, superficial representation or analysis of key concepts, absence of any special initiatives, or lack of coherent organization or explanation of ideas. The level of B work is judged in accordance with the severity of the difficulties demonstrated. B+ is from 76% to 79%, B is from 72% to 75%, and B- is from 68% to 71%

C Level (55% to 67%). Although a C+, C, or C- grade may be given in a graduate course, the Faculty of Graduate Studies

considers 68% as a minimum passing grade for doctoral graduate students.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR

You are expected to fulfill your module objectives, assignments, and discussions in a timely manner, and to contact me via course mail whenever you need help. I will, in most cases, return your communication within 24 to 48 hours. Should I be away and offline for an extended period (i.e., for more than a few days) I will notify the class in advance.

Spend enough time on the background resources for each module in order to make the most of the face-to-face sessions. It is very important that you have finished the online components of the course prior to attending the workshop sessions.

You will be expected to use, individually, and sometimes in groups, the Discussion Forums on the website to discuss the readings and activities in the modules. These discussion groups will provide you with an opportunity to share your knowledge, to seek feedback from fellow students as well as your instructor on your ideas, and to ask for help when you need it.

Students will be expected to:

- a. Attend all face-to-face sessions (and to notify instructor if unable to attend);
- b. Read assigned materials;
- c. Participate actively in discussions of lectures and readings - please review the major questions for each class and come prepared to discuss them;
- d. Complete and submit an assignment due on January 28, 2017; and

- e. Write a final report which will be due on April 8, 2017.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

A variety of methods will be used to accumulate marks to a potential total of 100. These include participation in group exercises and group presentations during face-to-face sessions, an individual written report and participation in three on-line discussions.

ASSIGNMENT

You will be given an assignment during the second class. The assignment will involve obtaining data on prevalence, incidence of diseases, conditions, and risk behaviors of interest using web-based sources of data, and summarizing the results.

IN-CLASS MIDTERM

You will be given two hour-long multiple choice and short answer in-class midterm exam. Content of the midterm will be from the lectures and the assignments. Please see the Course Schedule for the date of the exam.

FINAL REPORT

The final paper is a surveillance plan for patients at a refugee health clinic. You will choose a country or region of origin and will be responsible for researching disease prevalence and developing recommendations for screening new patients from that region. (15 double-spaced pages).

Students will also present their screening plan (oral presentation) to the class on the last face-to-face session.

PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend all classes and to come to class

prepared. Readings are to be completed before class and students should be ready to participate actively in class discussion and activities. The participation grade will reflect active engagement in class discussions and activities, as well as online activities.